



# ARCS News



San Antonio, Texas

Alamo Radio Control Society

[www.alamorcs.org](http://www.alamorcs.org)

AMA Charter 603

June, 2023

**CLUB FLYING SITE** Is located just west of Macdona at 10025 Shepard Road

**The next club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 2022, at 7 PM in the Acadiana Café, 1289 SW Loop 410.**

## ARCS OFFICERS

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#### Club Meeting:

Held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month (except Dec)

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Tuesday. Acadiana Café, 1289 SW Loop 410

### **The May Fun Fly**

The day of the May fun fly dawned with threats of rain and bad weather. While the fun fly was not technically cancelled, Bill Ponseigo says very few flyers came out. Those who did came with a lot of food for the food bank. Bill estimates almost 200 pounds worth. Way to go! Obviously, there are no photographs of the activities available.



### **4<sup>th</sup> of July 2023**

#### **JULY 4<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION!**

In the past the ARCS had a July 4<sup>th</sup> party that included fireworks display in the evening. My understanding is that the huge display talked about was two years of fireworks due to being held up COVID. There was some talk about repeating that event this year.

After a conversation with our land owner (he loved the last one and is looking forward to this year's event and already involved with it!), other club members, and Bill P; it was obvious we needed to repeat this as a family event. The grill was tested to insure it is available for use and plans were made and presented to the club.

The club agreed that we needed to celebrate Independence Day and gave me a food budget. Jim Agnew and Bob Severance got the event sanctioned and we have opened it up to all AMA members. After a little discussion we all agreed that the fireworks display would best be funded by donations only. To date I have collected \$140 (some from SAPB members who have been invited) and commitments for another \$100. I will be collecting all donations at the ARCS club meeting.

Thanks to our landlord who is donating the hotdogs, the club will provide cold drinks, hamburgers, hotdogs, all with buns and some condiments and chips. I am tempted to do a few sausage wraps and will ask about that at the meeting.

I need someone to slice onions and tomatoes for the burgers. I do hope I get someone to help me cook as that is not my best thing to do.

I will be bringing at least one crock pot to keep the burgers warm as they are being cooked. If someone brings another crock pot it will be used to keep the dogs hot. I will need to borrow at least 2 coolers to keep the drinks cold. Ice will be acquired on the day of the event. My cooler will be in use for food stuffs.

I plan on getting some cookies but strongly encourage folks to bring chilled watermelon as it is traditional in some families. I will also get some plates and napkins.

Jim Branaum



### Robert Francis Palmi, Final Flight

With regret we report the passing of club member Robert (Bob) Palmi who died May 11 at age 98. The following is based on Bob's published obituary.



From an early age Bob took a hands-on approach to life and learning. Perhaps to the dismay of the nuns at the All Souls Grammar School Bob's attention was not on teachers or textbooks rather his imagination was captivated by engines and machines. He spent countless hours tinkering and experimenting in his grandfather Paul McCarthy's shop. By the age of five Bob could be found under the hood of the family's Ford Model A and by twelve he'd built his first (of many) radio-controlled airplanes. Bob fondly credited his grandpappy Paul as a formative influence for his life which was ultimately defined by innovation, self-teaching and an unrelenting work ethic

Bob's mechanical sense carried him well through high school. He earned extra credit repairing teachers' cars and started teaching auto shop class when the instructor was drafted following Pearl Harbor. Bob learned the basics of machining and arc welding while building tanks at the L.A. Boiler Works and spent his spare time in the shop hot rodding his 1938 Plymouth.



Upon graduating with a Military Diploma from Alhambra High School in 1943, Bob served his country in the US Army 28th Infantry Division, 447th AAA AW BN (Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion) and the Service Battery for the 108th Field Artillery Battalion. He played a crucial role in General Patton's 3rd Army, initially coming ashore at Omaha Beach on June 7, 1944 (D-Day +1) and later liberating Paris in August 1944 and fighting in the Battle of the Bulge in early 1945.

Amidst the chaos of war and the bitter cold, Bob found purpose in applying his expertise in mechanics and welding. He was assigned to the motor pool where his sole task was to "keep the trucks running!" Bob would often recount the story of his dual manifold hot rod GI truck that was "the fastest truck in the European theater" which he built from salvaged truck and airplane parts.



After the war Bob returned to Los Angeles and began making a name for himself in the burgeoning California racing scene. If he could race it, Bob could build it. Bob built and raced cars, go-karts, motorcycles and boats.

Throughout the 50's and 60's Bob designed, manufactured and marketed an array of patented go-kart and motorcycle parts. In 1951 Bob founded his first company, Ropal Engineering, with a Chevrolet Service Shop and "Bob's Dyno" at 3156 San Gabriel Boulevard. He made a name for himself specializing in custom spaulding camshafts and dyno tune-ups for carburetion and ignition optimization. He remains most well known for his innovative collapsible motorcycle and hydraulic brake unit as well as motor mounts, chain guards, manifolds, exhaust headers, air stacks, reed plates, sprocket spools, and gas tanks. Many of these parts are still sought after to this day on vintage go-kart forums more than 60 years later.

Among his many accomplishments Bob was the chief mechanic for grocery store tycoon Ray Crawford. Bob rode with Ray as a riding mechanic on the Lincoln Capri that won the November 1954 La Carrera Panamericana (Mexican Road Race). In 1957 Bob was inducted as an associate member of the Society for Automotive Engineering. In 1961 he won the Western outboard Association's annual Catalina Island Race Classic. Bob's claim to fame was featured in the February 1963 edition of Hot Rod Magazine detailing his innovative adaptation of up to eight Dellorto carburetors on the Corvair engine.

In 1964 Bob married the love of his life Shelia Gayle Rawlinson. Together they lived in San Gabriel Valley and in 1967 Robert Paul— also a namesake tribute to grandpappy— joined the family. Bob's business became the family business. Together Bob and Shelia were a powerful pair, expanding the location on San Gabriel boulevard eventually establishing a Subaru and Saab dealership in 1971. The family made their home in an apartment above the original shop and their weekends were full of activities. They hosted family gatherings and impromptu quail hunts at their Wrightwood, CA property and made frequent trips to Catalina Island on any one of Bob's yachts, always accompanied by their dog Cricket.

After falling in love with the Pacific Northwest, the family moved to Anacortes, WA in 1980. Bob kept himself busy repairing private yachts and overseeing the construction of a traditional English Tudor style home on their forested plot overlooking the Puget Sound. The family eventually went back into business in 1990 with the founding of Palmi Marine Industries. Bob ran a small machine shop and was well known throughout the San Juan islands for custom fabricated stainless steel and fiberglass parts he often referred to as "boat jewelry."

According to club President Bill Ponseigo, Bob and Shiela retired, bought an RV and started traveling. The RV broke down in San Antonio, Texas. Tired of traveling, the pair decided they liked San Antonio and so they stayed. Bob rekindled his childhood hobby building radio controlled airplanes with his friends at the Alamo Radio Control Society. He was known for restorations of his and others' crashed planes. No matter how extensive the damage, to everyone's surprise he'd have the plane back on the tarmac within weeks.

Bob's legendary story is an inspiration to those who knew him. He was a patriot, an inventor and a pioneer who served his country and above all was committed to his family. Bob was part of what broadcaster Tom Brokaw calls the Greatest Generation. Bob was larger than life and will be missed by so many.

Memorial and committal services will be at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, 1520 Harry Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, TX. Time is 2:15, place, shelter 2.

### **Club Meeting Minutes, May 16, 2023**

President Bill Ponsiego called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM with the pledge of allegiance.

Guest, Bruce

New members:

Larry

Gene

Secretary report approved as published in the newsletter

Treasurer Report: Juan

Normal monthly expenses

Club gained \$170 in sale of airplane donated at last meeting.

History/food bank. Jim Witthauer could not attend the meeting. Reported the club has donated 773 pounds of food so far this year.

Caps and nametags. No report.

Old Business:

July 4. Jim Barham reported that there will be a collection next meeting for fireworks for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration at the field. The club had voted to hold the celebration, but not buy fireworks.

The event has been sanctioned by the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

Other clubs in the area have been invited to participate.

IMAC

Goals for the event:

1. Provide a venue for between 10 and 20 contestants optimal goal of 15
2. Saturday noon airshow and demonstration flights for lunchtime entertainment.
3. Saturday field entertainment:
  - a. Hands-on educational features
  - b. Children's play area
  - c. Silent auctions
  - d. Vendor give aways
  - e. Static display
  - f. Lunch and canteen area open to public and contestants
4. Promote event at local schools, ROTC clubs, STEM programs and local hobby store and other clubs.

Event teams will require assistance to assist with sponsorship and vendor participation, and setup and take down on event days. Club members will be first to be asked to volunteer. If needed, other clubs will be asked to provide volunteers.

There are 12 confirmed pilots with 5 more probables.

There will be a special gate code set up for contestants so they can access the field after hours.

Trash cans, have two may need three.

Contestants will arrive Thursday.

Setup will be Thursday evening, tables, etc.

Crash of the Month: Bill Ponseigo, crashed his jet.

Show and Tell: Jim Agnew showed an original design airplane, scratch-built

Raffle: Chris won the airplane.